

MEMO IN LIEU OF A MEETING

1/25/73

To: All attorneys

From: Norma, Bob, John

c.c. defendants, Sheinbaum

Re: Various things:

1) Protective Order

Although the government has placed the classified documents into evidence, we are still not in a position where we can assimilate the material the documents contain -- which is crucial in terms of communicating the appropriate information to the public in a manner which is beneficial to the defense. What can be done about this?

2) The Press & The Prosecution

Since Nov. 21, we have waged an intermittent battle with the building manager at the courthouse, (Stilwell), to get him to assign us a room in which to hold press briefings, as he did last summer. Stilwell maintains that no rooms are available, and we have no way of verifying this.

Whether we announce a formal press conference or not, television frequently crews/assemble on the courthouse steps at noon. The defendants are then put in the position of talking about the case as the jurors are leaving the building for lunch. If you think that the prosecution might try to use this against us, it might be better if we raised the subject with Byrne ourselves, to counteract a remote possibility that Byrne would respond to prosecution complaints by imposing a gag order on the defendants or sequestering the jury.

Stilwell has stated that he, "...takes his orders from Judge

cont.

Byrne," thus, Byrne can order him to make a room available on a regular basis over the lunch hour.

If none of you feels that the prosecution is liable to pick up on this, then we can forget the problem (at least until it rains again). If, however, there is reason to be cautious about the situation, then we should discuss our conversations with Stilwell with you in some detail.

3) Defense Witnesses

We need to start working with you on certain things relative to the defense witnesses -- for example, which ones may we contact for biographical material; which ones would be willing to appear on talk shows, (which have to be booked considerably in advance), etc.?

4) Non-credentialled Press

If there is a line of people waiting to get into the courtroom, the Marshals will not permit members of the press corps who are not holding a press card from the police department to go into the courtroom and sit in the press section -- they make them line up with the general public, which sometimes results in them not getting in at all. We cannot force the L.A.P.D. to issue credentials to the so-called underground press, (the L.A. Free Press attempted unsuccessfully to do this in a highly-publicized case a couple of years ago), but perhaps we can get Byrne to clarify the rules on press seating in his courtroom.

5) Copies, Questions & Requests

a) We are receiving one copy of everything filed by the defense, but we are still NOT receiving a copy of anything filed by the

Government. How can this be changed?

b) Direct requests from members of the press to the attorneys for copies of transcripts, motions or whatever should always be referred to us - it is essential in our dealings with the press that we know what has been given to whom and when and why.

c) Direct requests from members of the press to the attorneys for personal interviews or photo sessions should likewise be referred directly to us, not only because it's extremely difficult for us to do our job if we are not kept informed of all activities in relationship to our communication with the public, but also, NOT referring the requests to one of us encourages the development of a situation in which each time he or she turns around, there will be a press person breathing down ~~the~~ ^{an attorney's} neck, wanting something or other.

6) Key to 506

We need someone to give Gloria permission to give us a key to 506 so we can use the phone. We would not use it at times when 506 is in use by the legal defense, but we need access to the phone at other times because:

a) When something occurs in court which it is in our interests to disseminate immediately - all the pay phones are tied up by the press;

b) We often need to communicate with people in the office about matters which should not be overheard by the press, the jurors or the prosecution;

c) One goes through a lot of dimes that way.

7) Please Respond

Thank you.